

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 - 14 and add new claims 15 - 27 in accordance with the following:

1.-14. (CANCELED)

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A Pockels cell driver circuit, comprising

- a first circuit node (SK1) to be connected with a first connector of the Pockels cell (CP) and a second circuit node (SK2) to be connected with a second connector of the Pockels cell (CP), wherein
- the first circuit node (SK1) is connected with a first potential via a first switch (S1), and
- the second circuit node (SK2) is connected with the first potential via a second switch (S2), wherein
- both said circuit nodes (SK1, SK2) are connected with a second potential (HV) via a recharging resistor (R1, R2), respectively, and
- only one (SK2) of the said circuit nodes (SK1, SK2) or both said circuit nodes (SK1, SK2) are connected with the second potential (HV) via a further switch (S2B), respectively.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A Pockels cell driver circuit, comprising

- a first circuit node (SK1) to be connected with a first connector of the Pockels cell (CP) and a second circuit node (SK2) to be connected with a second connector of the Pockels cell (CP), wherein
- the first circuit node (SK1) is connected with a first potential via a first switch (S1), and
- the second circuit node (SK2) is connected with the first potential via a second switch (S2), wherein
- one of the said circuit nodes (SK1, SK2) is connected with a second potential (HV) via a recharging resistor, and the other one of the said circuit nodes (SK1, SK2) is connected with the second potential (HV) via a further switch.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A Pockels cell driver circuit, comprising

- a first circuit node (SK1) to be connected with a first connector of the Pockels cell (CP) and a second circuit node (SK2) to be connected with a second connector of the Pockels cell (CP), wherein
- the first circuit node (SK1) is connected with a first potential via a first switch (S1), and
- the second circuit node (SK2) is connected with the first potential via a second switch (S2), wherein
- both said circuit nodes (SK1, SK2) are connected with a second potential (HV) via a switch (S1B, S2B), respectively.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The Pockels cell driver circuit according to one of the claims 15 to 17, wherein

- low voltage control signals individually control each of the three or four switches (S1A, S1B, S2A, S2B) of the circuit.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The Pockels cell driver circuit according to one of the claims 15 to 17, wherein

- only two control signals (ON, OFF) control all three or four switches (S1A, S1B, S2A, S2B) such that one of the control signals (ON) induces voltage to be applied to the Pockels cell and the other control signal (OFF) induces the removal of voltage from the Pockels cell.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A System comprising a Pockels cell and a Pockels cell driver circuit according to one of the claims 15 to 17 connected thereto.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A pulse laser system and a system according to claim 20 for the optical switching of laser pulses.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The pulse laser system according to claim 21, wherein the pulse laser system comprises a pulsed laser source (1) having a laser resonator, wherein the Pockels cell (2) is arranged internally or externally to the laser resonator.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~pulsed~~ pulse laser system according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 21 ~~or 22~~, wherein the ~~pulsed~~ pulse laser

system comprises a pulsed laser source (1) and an optical amplifier (4).

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pulse laser system and a system according to claim 20 for the optical switching of laser pulses, wherein the pulse laser system comprises a pulsed laser source (1) and an optical amplifier (4) and wherein the system according to claim 20 is contained within the optical amplifier (4).

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pulse laser system and a system according to claim 20 for the optical switching of laser pulses, wherein the pulse laser system comprises a pulsed laser source (1) having a laser resonator, wherein the Pockels cell (2) is arranged internally or externally to the laser resonator, wherein a further system according to claim 20 is contained within the optical amplifier (4).

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An optical pump-/probe method by using a pulsed laser system according to claim 21 ~~one of claims 21 to 25~~, in which method

- an optical excitation pulse and a delayed optical monitoring pulse are directed onto a medium, wherein
- a signal induced by the delayed monitoring pulse is measured as a function of delay between the two pulses, wherein
- the pulse sequence of excitation and monitoring pulses and the delay from one to another is determined by the Pockels cell and the driver circuit of the Pockels cell.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A material processing method by using a system according to claim 21 ~~one of claims 21 to 25~~, in which method

- a first laser pulse is directed onto the material surface such that a plasma is generated at the surface, and
- after some delay a number of further laser pulses is directed onto the plasma above the surface of the material, whereby
- the pulse sequence of the first laser pulse and the number of further laser pulses and the delay between these laser pulses is determined by the Pockels cell and the driver circuit of the Pockels cell.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/17/05



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